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THE SABRES' BLADE

October 7, 1998

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXVI

Tragic accident takes life of cross country runner

Students mourn loss of South Meck freshman; officials examine ways to make cross country practice safer

By Andrew Buchert
Editor

Students at both South Mecklenburg High School and Quail Hollow Middle School paused to remember their friend and classmate Ben Robinette in a moment of silence on the morning of Friday, September 11, 1998. Ben was struck by a car and killed while trying to cross Park Road during cross country running practice on Thursday afternoon.

According to police, Ben Robinette, a freshman at South, stepped in front of a car on seven-lane Park Road around 4:45 p.m. while attempting to cross at the intersection of Park and Smithfield Church roads. He had successfully crossed all lanes of northbound traffic. Cars in two of the southbound lanes had stopped, and Ben likely didn't see the car in the third lane approach. The driver of the vehicle, a sixteen-year-old

from Matthews, was not speeding and probably will not be charged.

Several students were running with Ben at the time of the accident, and more assisted after he was hit. "We've seen kids carrying some extraordinary responsibility in this tragedy," said South Meck Principal Dr. James Knox.

Ben was very involved in athletics, academics, and his church. He was described by his teachers and peers as a highly motivated student and a hard worker. "Our team will always remember Ben," said Shirley Jakeman, Ben's eighth grade social studies teacher at Quail Hollow. "He was the kind of student who worked diligently, practiced hard, and wore a wonderful smile to class.

We know that he will be thought of often and remembered fondly by so many."



"Ben was an energetic, hard working runner who liked to set

goals," said Quail Hollow track coach Kenneth Waldron, who worked with him for two years.

"He never griped, he never grumbled, he never complained," he said. "He always gave me everything he had."

Robinette set a record for the mile at Quail Hollow, and broke it several times. "You wish you could have an entire team of athletes like Ben," said Waldron. "He never let me down in practice or on the track."

Likewise, Ben dreamed of running cross country in high school and in college. "Ben was one of the best runners that I've ever had," said South Meck cross country coach Brian Zelk.

The incident has prompted Charlotte-Mecklenburg School

System officials to reevaluate the safety of cross country routes. Superintendent Dr. Eric Smith canceled cross country practices throughout the entire school system for the weekend of Friday, September 11, including a meet scheduled at West Mecklenburg High School.

Currently, cross country runners system-wide are restricted to running on campus only. "That is a step to try to prevent another tragedy," said Knox. "If that helps to put any child out of harm's way then that's the right thing to do," he said.

"This is a tragedy in every sense of the word," said Knox, "and it is something that parents, team members, students, and faculty are going to have to deal with for some time to come."

"I think Quail Hollow Principal Mary Wolfe put it best when she said that Ben was just a 'great little kid,'" he said.

Harris, Martelle selected as Morehead nominees

By Andrew Buchert
Editor

The two finalists selected to represent South Meck in the John Motley Morehead Scholarship competition are Erinn Harris and Jenny Martelle. Harris and Martelle were chosen from among sixteen applicants at the school level.

The Morehead Scholarship is a full scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and is based on four criteria: leadership, scholarship, moral force of character, and physical vigor. In addition, candidates must be well-rounded, possess a strong academic record in challenging, competitive courses, and exhibit honesty, integrity, and courtesy.

Harris and Martelle will interview to advance in the competition later this month.

Amber McCloskey named Miss South

By Megan McKnight
Centerspread Editor

For the first time in the history of the school, a pageant was held for the title of Miss South Mecklenburg on the evening of Wednesday, September 23. Amber McCloskey was crowned Miss South, and the first runner-up was Nicole Ewing. The pageant consisted of three events: business attire, original costume, and formal gown. In addition, contestants were judged on an individual interview held prior to the competition.

The title of Miss South was based on the contestants' character, poise, and accomplishments. During the pageant, contestants expressed their personalities through original costumes which they designed and described to the audience. The six finalists for the title were asked to answer a question relevant to current issues and events. Five Charlotte Hornets Honeybees, not associated with South, served as judges. Amber is actively involved



Staff Photographer

Amber will represent South in the Carrousel Parade.

with the South Meck Drama Department, and has been dancing for the past fifteen years. She is also a dance teacher for

three and four year-old children. "I am honored to have won because it [the pageant] wasn't a popularity contest, but a chance

to represent the students in a positive way," said Amber. "My goal is to make the Miss South title even more beneficial to the school community," she said.

The thirteen senior women who competed for the title were Jennifer Beale, Nicole Ewing, Kelly Flaviani, Marja Franklin, Rhonda Gray, Shannon Hurleigh, Dena King, Michelle Love, Amber McCloskey, Meagan McCrystle, Nicole Muse, Kelly Palmer, and Meredith Perry.

Amber will represent South in the Carolina Carrousel Parade on Thanksgiving Day.

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Respect the office of president

Bill Clinton is still the president and we should continue to respect his position as the leader of our country even if his actions make it difficult to respect him as a person.

By Natalie Smith
Staff Reporter

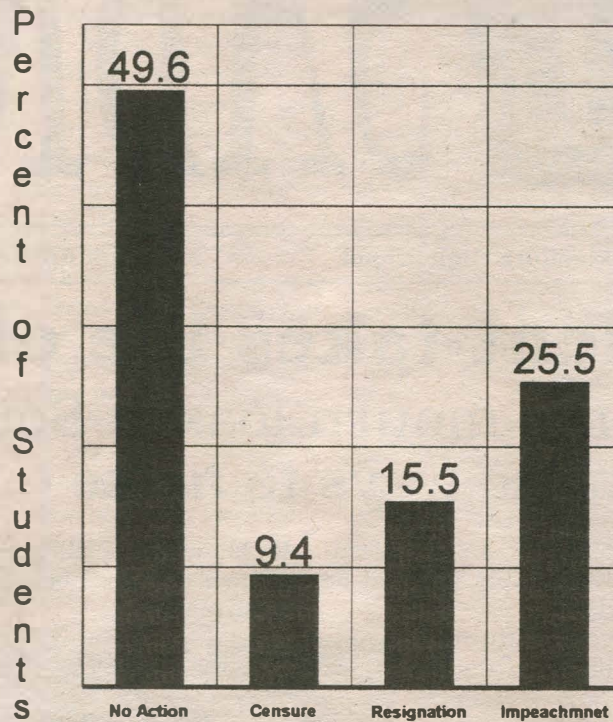
Adultery. Perjury. Impeachment. Words such as these have flooded the media for the past several months, and we all know what they refer to—President Clinton and his scandalous affair with Monica Lewinsky. People all over the country feel outraged and betrayed. In the opinion of many, he has disgraced himself, his family, and the country, and is no longer fit to be president. No matter what our feelings toward Bill Clinton are, however, we would all do well to remember one fact. Bill Clinton is still the president and we should continue to respect his position as the leader of our country even if his actions make it difficult to respect him as a person.

Since the emergence of this scandal, President Clinton has been the object of harsh criticism and merciless bashing. He has been the butt of many less-than-innocent jokes and has been the

subject of media coverage that branches far beyond an unbiased presentation of the facts. This is not to say that much of this is unwarranted. However, the media serves absolutely no purpose except further humiliating the president and stirring up more controversy, two things that neither Clinton nor the country needs more of.

Obviously, from a moral standpoint, President Clinton is not, by any means, free from blame. Unfortunately, however, what it basically boils down to is this: the deed is done and there is nothing anyone can do to reverse it. The decision of whether or not Clinton will finish his term in office lies with the House Judiciary Committee and possibly the Senate, but not with the general public. So, in the meantime, unnecessary disrespect of the president should be avoided, even if the people feel that this is justified. If we find it difficult to respect the man, Americans should at least respect the presidential office.

In a random survey of homerooms, South students offered their opinion on President Clinton's situation.



Looking for new ways to create space...



Parking could be hazardous to your health

Just by coming to school and attempting to park, one is at risk of being involved in an accident.

By Nicole Ewing
Business Manager

Everyone at South, student or faculty member, has been affected by it: the notorious parking lot. We have complained and complained, but it only seems to be getting worse. In my four years here at South, I have never seen the lot, both upper and lower, so congested. Just by coming to school and attempting to park, one is at risk of being involved in an accident.

During the first week of school, one had to leave 20 minutes earlier in order to bypass the build up of cars from the drop-off circle to a mile down Park Road. Many people attempted to avoid the dreaded left-hand turn signal into South by taking a short cut through the neighborhood across from the school. Unfortunately, it was just as bad if not worse in the neighborhood. Parents dropping off their kids in the middle of the street also make it hard to maneuver through all of the traffic. Because there is only one entrance and exit, cars have to take turns coming in and out of campus. While one line is being let out, another is being held up, which causes all of the traffic.

As a senior, I look forward to having the privilege of parking in the upper lot. In my opinion, the lower lot is a dusty, inconvenient, almost dangerous place to park your car. This year, however, the upper lot has been split in half to accommodate

both seniors and juniors. Last year, it was reserved solely for the seniors, while the gravel lot was for juniors. I was lucky enough to win a reserved parking pass, but some of my classmates were not as fortunate, and now have to settle for the half-mile journey to school every morning from the lower lot. This is extremely unfair, considering that a few select sophomores are able to park in the upper lot. The administration was faced with many unhappy seniors whom they had to satisfy by giving them an upper lot pass. Unfortunately, all of the passes were taken up, and now teachers have to suffer. Their parking passes were taken in order to please the seniors.

Throughout the year, the traffic will calm down, car-pools will form, and eventually, senioritis will kick in and half of the senior lot will be empty anyway. Until that time, the only way to deal with the turmoil of the parking lot is patience. We all must be extremely careful as we enter school; we have to get to class on time and do not want our passes taken away, but we cannot jeopardize our lives trying to beat the traffic. Parents, who have to get to work, must also be patient and not try to cut in front of cars as they try to leave South. Too many accidents have already occurred as a result of rushing. The administration has tried its best to solve the parking lot dilemma, and we must do our best to tolerate it.

Quick Take on Opinions

Learning, not grades, should be school priority

The debate of intrinsic versus extrinsic motivation for learning comes to mind. This involves whether an individual can be pressured to learn through incentives and ultimatums, or if a desire to learn must come from within. In turn, this brings to question what learning is, and what it should be.

Commonly, teachers pressure students with points, grades, and deadlines. The stimulus for achievement thus comes from an external source, not the student's desire. The process of learning becomes a cramming and regurgitation cycle rather than retaining knowledge for one's own benefit. Evidently, this cycle is not the goal of any legitimate educational institution.

The Shakerite
Shaker Heights High School
Ohio

Is President Bill Clinton fit for the presidency?

The executive branch of the government is responsible for enforcement of laws. If the president has broken the law and is convicted, he cannot hold the office of the presidency. If he is allowed to stay in office and this charge is not further investigated, the example he is setting for the rest of the country is that of immunity. If the president can break the law why can't common criminals do the same?

If the president did engage in sexual immorality, the other parts of his life can be questioned. If he cannot keep a vow to his wife, how can he keep a vow to the American people? In the words of William Shakespeare, "What a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive."

Katie Gillespie
The Chatterbox
George Washington High School
Virginia

Proposed Religious Freedom Amendment motives questionable

One of the basic principles that our country is based on is the separation of church and state. This arrangement is good for both groups. The various religious organizations that are in this country are protected from government regulations; the government is free of any meddling that may come from letting religion have a direct influence.

Now, I have no problems with a group meeting at school to pray, but I do not think that schools should have a scheduled prayer or "moment of silence." Religion is a personal choice so prayer should be a personal matter.

Molly Laas
The Spartan Shield
Pleasant Valley Community High School
Indiana

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Watch out for these flying freshmen

Three perspectives on one of South's oldest traditions

By Jason Nark
Staff Reporter

"Ouch, those bushes hurt!" That's what most freshmen were saying the first few days of school. One common goal they shared was not to get bushed. Peeking around the corner to see if the coast was clear, or laying low during lunch, most freshmen were taking every precaution to avoid upperclassmen.

Perhaps the hardest adjustment for ninth graders is the transition from middle school. South is a bigger campus, classes are longer, and books are twice as thick. "My biology book is larger than all of my books combined last year," is a quote often heard in freshman classes.

On the second day of school a freshman was sent to the bushes. When he jumped in, two other freshmen landed on top of him, driving his head into the wall, causing a concussion.

Has underclassmen hazing gone too far? Have seniors crossed the line? Dr. Knox put an immediate halt to bushing and other tactics used to embarrass freshmen. Sighs of relief echoed among ninth graders.

On the other hand, when this year's freshmen become seniors, will they have the right to bush incoming freshmen? Or will they, too, be denied the privilege? We can only wait and see.



By Cat Traphagan
Staff Reporter

Being recruited to sing "Happy Birthday" wasn't my idea of fun on the first day of my freshman year. During the first week of school I hid in the shadows of E Building bathrooms, hoping that no seniors would hunt me down and find me shivering in the corner. Proposing to a group of guys seemed like cruel and unusual punishment for a crime I had yet to discover. I didn't understand then that I would want the privilege when I became a senior.

I had often heard about this ritual; it's a long-standing tradition. Seniors have been bushing freshman for as long as anyone can remember. No one can remember when it was started or how it was started. The welcoming ritual is as much a part of South as the Sabre, the gravel lot, and the rock. You don't question where it came from because it's always been there, looming over the heads of underclassmen.

I am a junior now and I realize singing wasn't that bad. It isn't supposed to be scary; it's supposed to be fun. The seniors are leaving their mark before they will again become insignificant freshmen, lost in a sea of faces at a university. That's why I can't wait until next year, when I, too, will have the privilege of gathering freshmen to sing.

By J.T. Crook
Sports Co-Editor

As I watched the first week of our senior year pass, I experienced a large case of nostalgia. I can remember those hard luck days of our ninth grade year. There I was, a freshman, and looking every bit the part. I was five feet three inches tall and carrying a book bag that I could fit into. I was scared, nervous, and not at all excited. I practiced soccer for three weeks before school started and listened every day while the seniors made bets about who would bush the most freshmen.

I remember sitting in the cafeteria on the first day and watching the seniors come in and pick up entire tables of kids and lead them outside to the patio. On that day I was bushed three different times and was not once rescued by a school administrator. As the week continued, I found myself again and again climbing out of bushes. I was also forced to sing, dance and propose to crowds of seniors in the courtyard. I know that many of my classmates will agree that this is a time honored tradition at South.

This is the year we have been waiting for, a year of Out-to-Lunches and of five-minute head starts to the parking lot. Bushing freshmen is one of the few senior traditions that we have left.

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Somecka, South Meck's Award Winning Annual

The 1998 "Making Our Move" Somecka received two state awards from the North Carolina Student Publication Association at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. South's annual was recognized as the first place yearbook in cover design and second place yearbook in theme. This year's annual promises to be an even better publication.

Students will have an opportunity to purchase copies of the 1999 yearbook during the first two weeks in November. The cost of Somecka remains forty dollars, the same price as last year. Students are advised to pay by check so that they have a reliable proof of purchase in addition to their retained receipts.

In order to provide seniors with an easy method of purchase, yearbook sales representative will visit English 12 classes to take orders. Only seniors will be able to have their names stamped on the cover of the 1999 annual for a additional cost of two dollars. Sales to sophomores and juniors will take place during B day lunches or after school in K-6. Freshmen will be able to purchase their annuals during their Freshman Focus classes.

South Meck freshman wins Creative Excellence Award

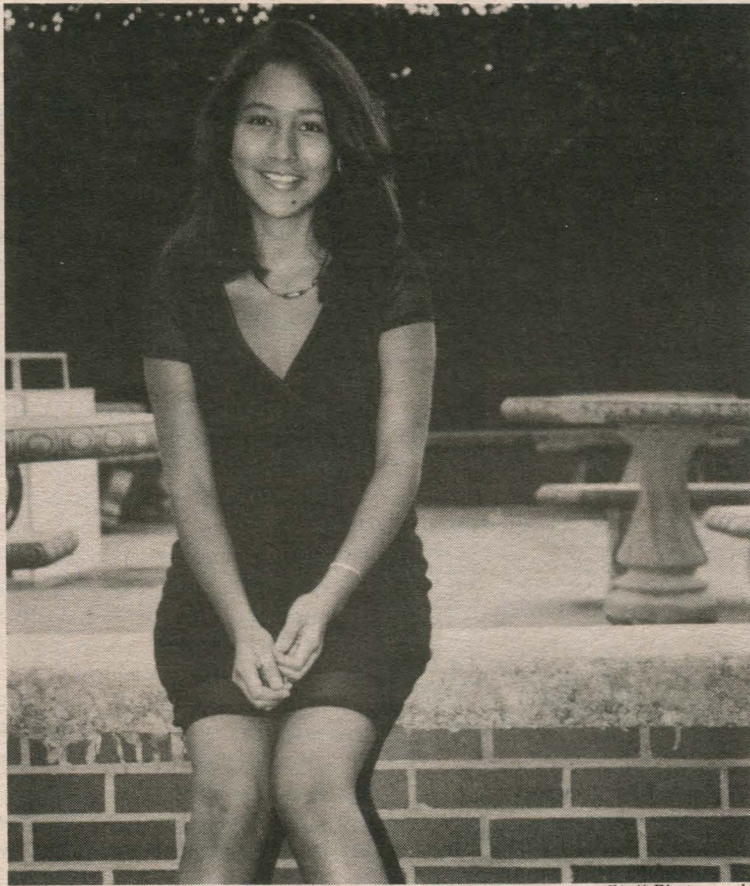
Dedication and determination pay off for Cassie Goodluck

By Jessica Ambrose
Staff Reporter

The film "Don't Look Behind You" won second place in the middle school category of the National Children's Film Festival. Its creators are two very talented teen-age girls, Cassie Goodluck, who attends South Meck as a freshman, and Erin Fisher, who attends Northwest School of the Arts. Putting their creativity on display produced rewarding results for these two.

Their twenty minute film is a thriller about a young girl stalked by a murderer she met through the Internet. Cassie hoped the film would warn others about the dangers that lie on the Internet, especially since it has become a common practice for teen-agers to meet while chatting on-line.

Erin and Cassie produced, wrote, filmed, and starred in this award-winning piece without much prior exposure to the film industry. Trial and error and hands on experience served as their medium. "We learned how to work with the camera



Staff Photographer

Cassie wrote and starred in an award-winning film that conveys the dangers that lurk on the internet.

angles, get the lighting and set right, and write a script," said Cassie. Though it took them over half a year, the resulting product contained the final scenes and dialogue that won them the Creative Excellence Award for their efforts.

Filmmaking appears to be a promising future career for Cassie. She has had brief brushes with the business through her mother, who attended Regent University, which offers degrees in Cinema-Television, Theatre Arts, and Script/Screenwriting. Cassie also hopes to attend a university that offers acting majors. "I have always wanted to be an actress my whole life," Cassie said.

When asked what aspect of the project she most enjoyed, she replied, "Probably acting the chase scenes; they were really fun." Even though the acting of scenes was the most enjoyable segment of the filming procedure for them, Cassie recalled that it was a challenge to gather everyone at the correct locations before time to film.

Cassie starred in *Don't Look Behind You* as the teen-age girl pursued by the Internet murderer, played by Erin's father. Erin was cast as Cassie's best friend, while Cassie's brother played a police officer.

Inspiration for the film came from such movies as *Scream* and *Nightmare on Elm Street*, and the desire to illustrate the dangers of Internet friendships. With computers becoming an essential part of functioning in the workplace and at school, many people have become trusting of relationships initiated over the Internet. *Don't Look Behind You* portrayed one such situation that can result from this dangerous practice.

This is a classic example of how dedication and determination can pay off. With limited knowledge, Cassie and Erin ventured to create a film that helps to convey dangers that lurk on the Internet, and in doing so, captured second place in a national contest. Cassie sums up her winning philosophy, "If you set your mind to something, it can work out."

Three familiar faces leaving South for new opportunities

By Jennifer Samuels and
Cat Traphagan
Staff Reporters

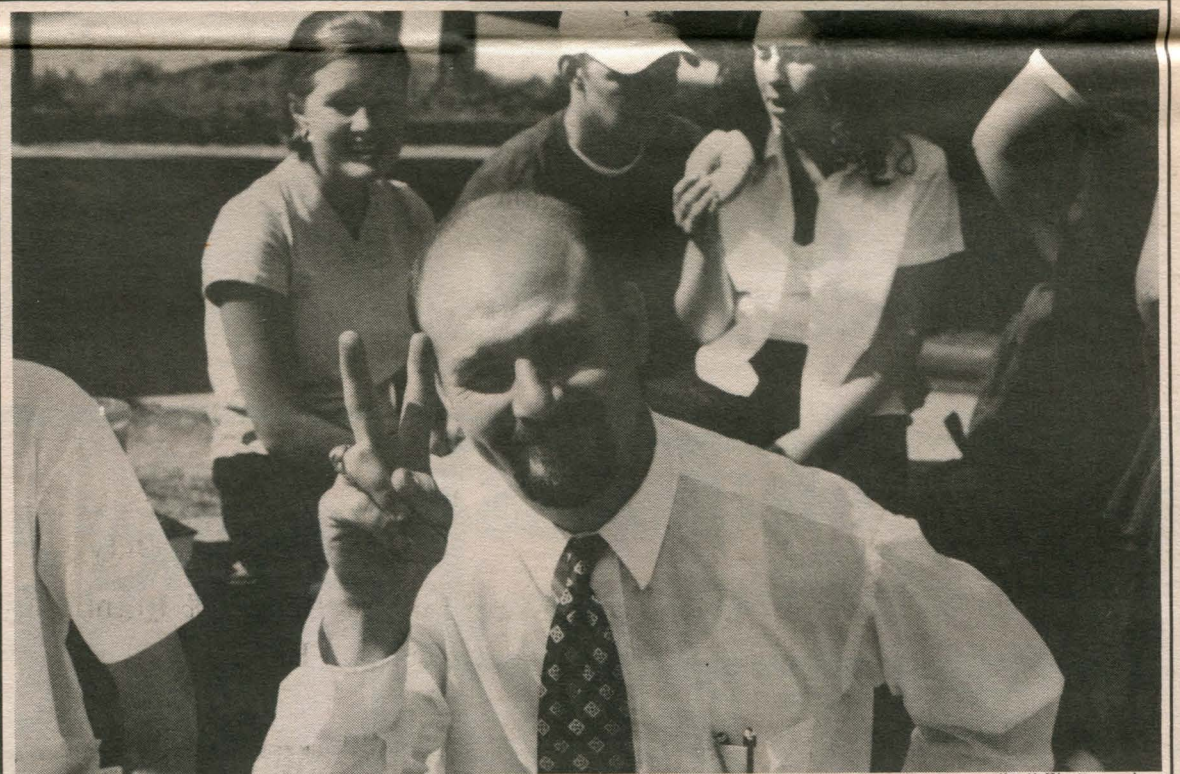
Ms. Jean Capps is described as warm-hearted, soft-spoken, and compassionate. Ms. Capps has been helping children since 1965, working closely with orphanages, treatment centers for the emotionally disturbed, and the YWCA. However, her first love is social work. For the past six years she has worked as a guidance counselor at South, focusing on exceptional children.

Recently, she made the decision to leave South Meck to take a position at Olympic High School. "It was one of the most difficult decisions of my life," she said. "It's sad leaving a place I have loved so much."

Mr. Terry Barbee, who has held the position of Financial Secretary for the past two and a half years is also leaving South. Barbee joined South from Northeast Middle School in February of 1996, at the same time Dr. Jim Knox was promoted to principal. He is leaving to take a position in the Budget Department at the Education Center for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Barbee recalls that his time at South has been a most enjoyable experience because of the talented and pleasant staff with which he is associated. "This is truly a school of excellence," he said.

Sabres' Blade reporter Jessica Ambrose contributed to this article.



Staff Photographer

Fallen House of Payne: Mr. Gary Payne, who taught U.S. History at South for the past five years, left teaching this year for a position in Consumer Services with Bell South in Charlotte. "It was a very difficult decision to leave teaching," he said, "but I was offered a better opportunity for my family that I could not turn down."



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For your next lunch, try 'Doby's Cafe'

Culinary arts students cater school events in technologically advanced kitchen

By Jessica Ambrose
Staff Reporter

Culinary arts programs are a commonly found extension of academic curriculums at many high schools, yet none quite measure up to the program in place at South. For the last five years Mrs. Mary Doby has been educating students in culinary arts. A new specialized facility was built in A Building to suit her instructional needs. "Basically, since we've had the new building, we've been up and running full in swing," said Mrs. Doby.

Her students cater all school functions and sometimes meet off campus to provide food for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System gatherings. On September 3, students provided food for United Way at the Senior Citizens Center on Tyvola Road. Students will also run The Southside Café every Friday for teachers. These activities provide students with the knowledge needed not only to prepare foods, but also for a career in restaurant management.

Technology continues to impact culinary arts as it has in



Staff Photographer

Mary Doby begins her Culinary Arts class with basic food preparation techniques.

the past. Mrs. Doby could recall a time when only a stove and a mixer were involved in cooking, yet now specific instruments are in use. "Rather than just saying you know how to cook, you have to know how to operate a

piece of equipment," she said. Her students visit Piedmont Natural Gas, where they have access to the newest models of kitchen equipment in order to learn how to operate the advanced machinery. The empha-

sis placed on time-based convenience has resulted in equipment that operates quickly, and a rise in the use of pre-cooked foods.

"My wish is that I had more students who are sincerely inter-

ested in the field of restaurant management and restaurant ownership," said Mrs. Doby. "With the facility that we have, we can give those students a great background [in culinary arts] before they go off to college."

South's facilities for the culinary arts classes are in good condition and boast some of the latest kitchen equipment, including a computer with Internet access used for obtaining new recipes. When asked about facilities upgrades, Mrs. Doby replied, "I think Dr. Knox is supportive enough of the program that we'll be able to update reasonably, not every year, but maybe every five years or so."

Mrs. Doby's program provides an opportunity for students to prepare for the rapidly changing career fields of the culinary arts. It takes more than equipment to create a successful department; it requires a combination of eager students, dedicated teachers, and proper learning materials. "I'm still amazed," she stated. "What we have here is far superior to what I've seen in any other school anywhere in the state."

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Appalachian State University

Office of Admissions
John Thomas Building
Boone, NC 28608
Phone: (828) 262-2120
E-mail: admissions@appstate.edu
Web site: <http://www.appstate.edu>
Type of School: public, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 10,421.
Part-time: 7%. Men: 49%. Women: 51%.
African American: 3%. Asian American: 1%. Latino: 1%. International: 1%. In-state residents: 88%. 25 or over: 9%. Living off campus: 59%. Men in fraternities: 13%. Women in sororities: 11%.
Finances: In-state tuition: \$900. Out-of-state tuition: \$8,028. Fees: \$940. Room and board: \$3,008.
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: October 15, November 16, December 15, January 15, February 15.
Selectivity: Number applied: 7,778. Admitted: 5,563. Enrolled: 2,170. Test Scores: Half of the freshmen enrolled scored between 490-600 on SAT Verbal. 490-580 on SAT Math. 20-25 on ACT Comp. One fourth scored below this middle range and one fourth scored above. Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 17%. From top 25%: 56%. From top 50%: 94%.

Barber-Scotia College

Admissions Office
145 Cabarrus W.
Concord, NC 28025
Phone1: (704) 789-2901
Phone2: (800) 610-0778
Web site: <http://www.collegeedge.com>
Type of School: private, Presbyterian, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 500. Part-time: 4%. Men: 54%. Women: 46%.
African American: 100%. 25 or over: 13%. Living off campus: 74%. Men in fraternities: 24%. Women in sororities: 24%.
Finances: Tuition: \$5,394. Fees: \$200. Room and board: \$3,220.
Admissions: Application deadline: August 1.
Selectivity: Number applied: 1,131. Admitted: 1,000. Enrolled: 177.
Graduates: Entered grad school within a year of graduation: 4%.

Lees-McRae College

Admissions Office
P.O. Box 128
Banner Elk, NC 28604
Phone: (828) 898-5241
Web site: <http://www.lmc.edu>
Type of School: private, Presbyterian, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 431. Part-time: 3%. Men: 50%. Women: 50%.
African American: 4%. Asian American: 1%. Latino: 1%. International: 2%. In-state residents: 50%. Living off campus: 32%. Men in fraternities: 0%. Women in sororities: 0%.
Finances: Tuition: \$8,032. Fees: \$966. Room and board: \$3,680.
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: March 15.
Selectivity: Number applied: 538. Admitted: 448. Enrolled: 186.
Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 8%. From top 25%: 16%. From top 50%: 36%.
Graduates: Entered grad school within a year of graduation: 12%.

Johnson C. Smith University

Office of Admissions
100 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216
Phone1: (704) 378-1010
Phone2: (800) 782-7303
E-mail: bgolman@jcsu.edu
Web site: <http://www.jcsu.edu>
Type of School: private, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 1,357. Part-time: 6%. Men: 40%. Women: 60%. In-state residents: 24%. 25 or over: 6%. Living off campus: 23%. Men in fraternities: 10%. Women in sororities: 8%.
Finances: Tuition: \$8,469. Fees: \$767. Room and board: \$3,328.
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: rolling.
Selectivity: Number applied: 2,853. Admitted: 1,921. Enrolled: 386.

The classes needed to prepare for college

By Jennifer Samuels
Staff Reporter

One of the great things about high school is the variety of classes that one can take. A student may enroll in any course from fashion merchandising to cooking to auto shop. However, in the minds of most high school students lurks that one question that will haunt them throughout their high school career: What classes should I take to make myself desirable to colleges?

First and foremost, schools look to see that students have taken the basics. Most require four years of English, which is a Charlotte-Mecklenburg graduation requirement, so that is no problem! The requirement for science is generally three years, including Biology I and Chemistry I. Three years of social studies is also the norm, including U.S. history, world history, and an economics class (ELP). Colleges like as much math as possible, but Algebra I and II and geometry are usually necessary.

Universities also look at what electives a person has chosen. Good electives include subjects

in the fine arts, such as band and theatre, and in the computer field, such as computer programming and keyboarding. Most schools also require at least two years of the same foreign language.

The above requirements are just the backbone of what will get a person into a competitive school. It is suggested by most colleges that a person take as much science, math, and social studies as possible. It is advisable to take more than the minimum requirements. Three or more years of a foreign language are also favored by most schools.

As for honors and AP classes, these are a student's best options if they feel that they can successfully do the work. In general a "B" in an AP course looks better than an "A" in regular classes. However, it is better to get a good grade in a regular class than a "C" or below in an AP class. Although the classes a person takes are very important factors in getting into college, do not neglect extracurricular activities and good SAT scores. After all, why just have one slice when you can have the whole pizza?



College and university
information taken from

KAPLAN 1999 EDITION FREE PRACTICE TEST OFFER

How to Get Into COLLEGE

Find the Best School for You
Students' Success Stories
Paying the Bills: Tips for Families
College Directory & Sample Tests

Having trouble deciding how to pay for college? Good news. Thousands of dollars in scholarship and financial aid is available to students.

- *Ask one of the guidance counselors about a program that can help you.
- *Take some initiative. Ask the schools if they have any money available to freshmen. Look in catalogs, financial aid office, and admissions office.
- *Well-rounded, ambitious, involved leaders are at the top of the list for scholarships.
- *Athletes and exceptional students can get scholarships too.
- *Ask companies if they offer any scholarships, and how to qualify for them. Fraternities and sororities also offer money, so use the alumni.
- *Federal Loans aren't available until January 1, but use them then; they are offered based on family income.
- *Federal Student Aid Information Center: 1-800-4-FEDAID
- *Free Application for Federal Student Aid: 319-337-5665

Fayetteville State University*

Admissions Office
1200 Murchison Rd
Fayetteville, NC 28301-4298
Phone1: (910) 486-1371
Phone2: (800) 222-2594
E-mail: prblalock@hazel.fsufay.edu
Web site: <http://www.fsufay.edu/>
Type of School: public, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 3,891. Part-time: 30%. Men: 41%. Women: 59%.
African American: 74%. Asian American: 2%. Latino: 3%. International: 2%. In-state residents: 92%. 25 or over: 48%. Living off campus: 65%. Men in fraternities: 9%. Women in sororities: 4%.
Finances: Tuition: \$1,560. Room and board: \$2,850.
Admissions: Application deadline: August 15.
Selectivity: Number applied: 1,157. Admitted: 929. Enrolled: 389.
Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 2%. From top 25%: 9%. From top 50%: 36%.

Gardner-Webb University

Admissions Office
Washburn Hall
Boiling Springs, NC 28017
Phone1: (704) 434-2361 ext. 230
Phone2: (800) 253-6472
E-mail: admissions@gardner-webb.edu
Web site: <http://www.gardner-webb.edu>
Type of School: private, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 2,402. Part-time: 22%. Men: 38%. Women: 62%.
African American: 10%. Asian American: 2%. Latino: 1%. International: 2%. In-state residents: 72%. 25 or over: 0%. Living off campus: 37%. Men in fraternities: 0%. Women in sororities: 0%.
Finances: Tuition: \$9,620. Room and board: \$4,850.
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: August 1.
Selectivity: Number applied: 1,032. Admitted: 884. Enrolled: 240.
Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 23%. From top 25%: 42%. From top 50%: 67%.

North Carolina A&T State University*

Admissions Office
1601 East Market Street
Greensboro, NC 27411
Phone1: (919) 334-7946
Phone2: (800) 443-8964
Web site: <http://www.ncat.edu>
Type of School: public, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 7,002. Part-time: 11%. Men: 50%. Women: 50%.
African American: 90%. Asian American: 1%. International: 2%. In-state residents: 84%. 25 or over: 0%. Living off campus: 54%. Men in fraternities: 4%. Women in sororities: 4%.
Finances: In-state tuition: \$5,480. Out-of-state tuition: \$12,600. ('97-'98, inclusive of room and board)
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: June 1.
Selectivity: Number applied: 4,513. Admitted: 2,465. Enrolled: 1,354.
Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 13%. From top 25%: 28%. From top 50%: 73%.

Pfeiffer University

Admissions Office
P.O. Box 960
Misenheimer, NC 28109
Phone: (800) 338-2060
E-mail: admis@jfh.pfeiffer.edu
Web site: <http://www.pfeiffer.edu>
Type of School: private, United Methodist, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 963. Part-time: 15%. Men: 79%. Women: 21%.
African American: 14%. Asian American: 1%. Latino: 1%. International: 5%. In-state residents: 72%. 25 or over: 41%. Living off campus: 59%.
Finances: Tuition: \$9,816. Room and board: \$4,000. ('97-'98)
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: rolling.
Selectivity: Number applied: 637. Admitted: 539. Enrolled: 162. Test Scores: Half of the freshmen enrolled scored between 420-530 on SAT Verbal. 420-540 on SAT Math. One fourth scored below this middle range and one fourth scored above. Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 13%. From top 25%: 33%. From top 50%: 58%.

doing after high school?

right for you after graduation.

Information compiled and
designed by Megan McKnight
and Nicole Ewing.

If college is not right for you...

If college is not an option for you, here are some facts to consider:

-Technical workers are the fastest-growing and economically promising segment of the labor force.

-The largest number and fastest growing group of jobs among technical workers can be trained at the associate level.

-On average, technical workers without bachelor degrees will earn higher salaries than most bachelor degree graduates.

There are many options in Charlotte for those who want to further their education, but not at a traditional 4 year college.

-CPCC is more than Cool People Call it College. It offers more than 50 programs/concentrations that lead to the Associate (college) Degree, and there is always the option of going on for additional education.

-More than 15 private schools in Charlotte offer a variety of programs, such as King's College, American Business and Fashion Institute, and Brookstone.

-Carolinas College of Health Sciences and Presbyterian Hospital provide training in radiology, medical training nursing, and surgical technology. Also, at least four schools offer training in hair-styling/cosmetology.

-The military is also a good option. It provides a steady job, food, and shelter. The military will also pay for college if you decide later on that you want to further your education.

-You can find information about schools and other opportunities in Student Services.

Information from Jim Craig, Director of Workforce Development.



Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte offers many programs designed for students who intend to enter the workforce upon graduation.

Associate in Applied Science Degrees are awarded in such areas as accounting, graphic design, business administration, criminal justice, dental hygiene, hotel and restaurant management, interior design, medical laboratory technology, paralegal technology, physical therapy assisting, respiratory care, and many others.

Diplomas are awarded in such areas as auto body repair, electrical technology, horticulture technology, medical assisting, office systems technology, and many others.

In addition to the above, CPCC awards **Certificates** in Basic Law Enforcement Training, and Cytotechnology.

Breakdown of post-graduate choices for 1998 South Meck senior class

Four Year Public School in NC	152
Four Year Public School Out of NC	17
Private School in NC	17
Private School Out of NC	18
Two Year School	80
Private Jr. College	1
Trade/Business School	14
Military	4

Does the early bird always get the worm?

By Larisa Yasinovskaya
Staff Reporter

Some students are so anxious and nervous about college that they want to get accepted quickly and be done with it. That's okay, but you must be careful and keep the rules in mind.

Generally, when people apply early, they already know which college they want to go to, and *that's* why they apply early - to secure their spot.

But keep in mind that when you apply early and get accepted you are *obligated* to go to that school. This, of course, restricts you from applying to

other schools and limits your options. In essence, when a school accepts you early, what they are basically saying is that they have faith in you to the extent that they do not need to see your senior year grades.

Also, if you get accepted early to a particular school and another offers you a full scholarship, you cannot accept it. So think ahead and research what you need to make sure you get what you want. If you do wish to apply early you can do that at the end of your junior year or beginning of your senior year, and you will get your answer before Christmas.

Campbell University

Admissions Office
P.O. Box 546
Buies Creek, NC 27506
Phone1: (910) 893-1320
Phone2: (800) 334-4111
E-mail: admm@mailcenter.campbell.edu
Web site: <http://www.campbell.edu/cuindex.html>
Type of School: private, Baptist, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 3,670. Men: 49%. Women: 51%. African American: 9%. Asian American: 1%. Latino: 3%. International: 8%. In-state residents: 63%. 25 or over: 27%. Living off campus: 20%.
Finances: Tuition: \$10,300. Fees: \$208. Room and board: \$3,800. (estimated)
Admissions: Required test: SAT. Application deadline: August 1.
Selectivity: Number applied: 1,849. Admitted: 1,154. Enrolled: 642. Test Scores: Half of the freshmen enrolled scored between 480-580 on SAT Verbal. 470-560 on SAT Math. One fourth scored below this middle range and one fourth scored above. Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 21%. From top

Belmont Abbey College

Admissions Office
1 Belmont-Mt. Holly Road
Belmont, NC 28012
Phone: (704) 825-6665
E-mail: admissions@crusader.bac.edu
Type of School: private, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 834. Part-time: 17%. Men: 45%. Women: 55%. African American: 6%. Asian American: 1%. Latino: 2%. International: 3%. In-state residents: 65%. 25 or over: 31%. Living off campus: 76%. Men in fraternities: 50%. Women in sororities: 50%.
Finances: Tuition: \$11,094. Fees: \$546. Room and board: \$5,978.
Admissions: Required test: SAT. Application deadline: rolling.
Selectivity: Number applied: 376. Admitted: 318. Enrolled: 165. Test Scores: Half of the freshmen enrolled scored between 450-600 on SAT Verbal. 450-600 on SAT Math. One fourth scored below this middle range and one fourth scored above. Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 11%. From top 25%: 30%. From top 50%: 81%.

Shaw University

Office of Admissions
118 East South Street
Raleigh, NC 27611
Phone1: (919) 564-8275
Phone2: (919) 564-8276
E-mail: ksmith@shawu.edu
Type of School: private, Baptist, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 2,327. Part-time: 10%. Men: 37%. Women: 63%. African American: 96%. Asian American: less than 1%. Latino: less than 1%. International: 1%. In-state residents: 66%. 25 or over: 45%. Living off campus: 56%. Men in fraternities: 4%.
Finances: Tuition: \$6,030. Room and board: \$4,174.
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: August.
Selectivity: Number applied: 1,131. Admitted: 862. Enrolled: 300. Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 4%. From top 25%: 10%. From top 50%: 27%.

Meredith College

Office of Admission
3800 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27607-5298
Phone1: (800) 637-3348
Phone2: (919) 829-8581
E-mail: admissions@meredith.edu
Web site: <http://www.meredith.edu>
Type of School: private, women only.
Student Body: Undergrad: 2,367. Part-time: 25%. Men: 1%. Women: 99%. African American: 5%. Asian American: 1%. Latino: 1%. International: 1%. In-state residents: 84%. 25 or over: 21%. Living off campus: 45%.
Finances: Tuition: \$8,840. Room and board: \$3,900.
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: February 15.
Selectivity: Number applied: 977. Admitted: 844. Enrolled: 416. Test Scores: Half of the freshmen enrolled scored between 480-580 on SAT Verbal. 470-570 on SAT Math. 18-23 on ACT Comp. One fourth scored below this middle range and one fourth scored above. Freshmen from the top 10% of

NORTH CAROLINA

Wingate University

Admissions Office
Wingate, NC 28174
Phone1: (704) 233-8200
Phone2: (800) 755-5550
E-mail: admit@wingate.edu
Web site: <http://www.wingate.edu>
Type of School: private, Baptist, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 1,119. Part-time: 4%. Men: 53%. Women: 47%. African American: 11%. Asian American: 1%. Latino: 1%. International: 2%. In-state residents: 54%. 25 or over: 4%. Living off campus: 30%. Men in fraternities: 20%. Women in sororities: 20%.
Finances: Tuition: \$11,600. Fees: \$550. Room and board: \$4,300.
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: August 15. Selectivity: Number applied: 1,038. Admitted: 885. Enrolled: 308. Test Scores: Half of the freshmen enrolled scored between 450-550 on SAT Verbal. 450-560 on SAT Math. 20-24 on ACT Comp. One fourth scored below this middle range and one fourth scored above. Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 18%. From top 25%: 37%. From top 50%: 71%.
Graduates: Entered grad school within a year of graduation: 25%.

Queens College*

Admissions Office
1900 Selwyn Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28274
Phone1: (704) 337-2212
Phone2: (800) 849-0202
E-mail: cas@rex.queens.edu
Web site: <http://www.queens.edu>
Type of School: private, Presbyterian, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 1,110. Part-time: 42%. Men: 26%. Women: 74%. African American: 18%. Asian American: 2%. Latino: 2%. International: 3%. In-state residents: 27%. Living off campus: 28%. Men in fraternities: 19%. Women in sororities: 5%.
Finances: Tuition: \$12,980. Room and board: \$5,600.
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: rolling. Selectivity: Number applied: 646. Admitted: 491. Enrolled: 160. Test Scores: Half of the freshmen enrolled scored between 460-590 on SAT Verbal. 450-570 on SAT Math. 19-26 on ACT Comp. One fourth scored below this middle range and one fourth scored above. Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 25%. From top 25%: 49%. From top 50%: 88%.
Graduates: Entered grad school within a year of graduation: 30%.

Catawba College

Admissions Office
2300 West Innes Street
Salisbury, NC 28144-2488
Phone1: (704) 637-4402
Phone2: (800) CATAWBA
E-mail: EPHolden@catawba.edu
Web site: <http://www.catawba.edu>
Type of School: private, United Church of Christ, coed.
Student Body: Undergrad: 1,283. Part-time: 4%. Men: 50%. Women: 50%. African American: 10%. Asian American: less than 1%. Latino: 1%. International: 1%. In-state residents: 52%. 25 or over: 17%. Living off campus: 31%. Men in fraternities: 0%. Women in sororities: 0%.
Finances: Tuition: \$12,134. Fees: \$0. Room and board: \$4,650.
Admissions: Required test: either SAT or ACT. Application deadline: rolling. Selectivity: Number applied: 1,487. Admitted: 1,293. Enrolled: 367. Test Scores: Half of the freshmen enrolled scored between 409-604 on SAT Verbal. 402-598 on SAT Math. One fourth scored below this middle range and one fourth scored above. Freshmen from the top 10% of high school class: 13%. From top 25%: 20%. From top 50%: 48%.

College and university information
taken from Kaplan Newsweek
Guide to Colleges.

Angela's Ashes: A story of hope and humanity

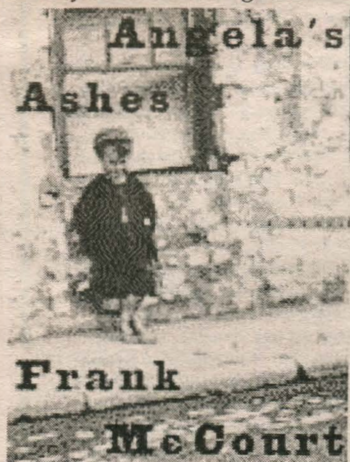
By Natalie Smith
Staff Reporter

Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* has become increasingly popular since its release in 1996. It won McCourt the Pulitzer Prize and has held its spot on the bestseller list for over one hundred weeks. It is not surprising, though, for McCourt demonstrates extraordinary abilities as a writer, and uses his story to provide a window into the human soul.

Angela's Ashes is the true story of an Irish-American family's struggle for survival both financially and emotionally. McCourt begins his tale this way:

"When I look back on my childhood, I wonder how I survived it at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood."

Though things seem at times hopeless for the McCourts, the family is held together by



Frank's mother, Angela. With the weight of the world on her shoulders, Angela often sits and stares into the ashes of the fireplace. Thus, McCourt chooses the fitting title, *Angela's Ashes*.

McCourt's exceptional talent as a writer is shown as he vividly portrays the grimness of his Irish-Catholic childhood in Limerick; yet, he weaves in wit and humor throughout his story. On one page the reader may be at the point of tears over the premature death of one of Angela's small children. On the next page he may be laughing aloud at the predicaments a mischievous young boy can get himself into. Most profound, though, is McCourt's ability to tell his story through the eyes of a child so convincingly. This contributes greatly to the novel by adding an innocence and unbiased frankness that would not be possible if told from the adult standpoint.

Whether you are Irish or Catholic or neither, you will enjoy this book. It is not a book about immigrants or Ireland or Catholicism. It is about humanity and its message is universal.

Out to lunch? Dinner and a movie?

Some local options for a quick bite or inexpensive meal

Out to lunch

Carolina Smoothies

10110 Johnston Rd.
541-9440

For a healthy snack that will fill you up, and boost your energy.

Jersey Mikes

10110 Johnston Rd.
543-3133

For a huge sub at a low price, come to Jersey Mikes!

Just Fresh, A Bakery Cafe

6420 Carmel Rd.
341-8424

The old bank on Carmel Road just turned into a healthy, but delicious place to have a great sandwich and enjoy homemade bread.

Jake's Pizza

10106 Johnston Rd.
541-9600

For those who are sick of Domino's and Pizza Hut. The slices are huge and the taste is great.

Thai Pai South

Hannaford Shopping Center
This place has fabulous oriental food and prices that are unbelievable!

Waffle House

8300 Pineville-Matthews Rd.
541-8723

Whether it's breakfast, lunch, dinner, or a 2:00 a.m. snack, Waffle House always satisfies.



Bruegers Bagel

9007 Pineville-Matthews Rd.
543-4785

Get a great bagel, coffee, or soup, and watch how it's made all at the same time!

Joe's Crab Shack

10405 Centrum Pkwy.
544-4851

We don't have a Dick's Last Resort, but Charlotte has the next best thing!

Dinner and a Movie

Chili's

8302 Pineville-Matthews Rd.
543-6265

For a salad, chicken fingers, or ribs, everything on the menu is good.

Rafferty's

9501 South Blvd. 643-0050

Make sure to save room after a great meal for their famous Brookie (Cookie brownie smothered in ice cream and fudge.)

Mama Ricotta's

8418-A Park Rd. 556-0914
For Italian food in a family atmosphere.

Sir Edmond Halley's

4151-A Park Rd. 525-2555
For a hearty appetite, because the portions are plentiful.

Hotel Charlotte

705 S. Sharon Amity Rd. 364-8755

The classic, original version of a former hotel, similar to a speakeasy.

Olive Garden

9421 Pineville-Matthews Rd.
341-1033

You've seen the advertisements. When you're there, you're family!

Vintage Dave Matthews Captivates Charlotte

By Nathan Morabito
Sports Co-editor

Eighteen thousand fans crowded into the sold-out Blockbuster Pavilion on August 21, 1998, to witness another classic Dave Matthews Band performance. The fans, mostly young adults, already knew what to expect from this popular band: one of the best concert acts of the year, from one of the best live bands in the business.

The Dave Matthews Band—drummer Carter Beauford, bassist Stefan Lessard, vocalist/guitarist Dave Matthews, reedman LeRoi Moore, violinist Boyd Tinsley, and guest guitarist Tim

Reynolds—spent the night jamming to old and new songs alike. Their music, a mix of jazz, rock, folk, funk, and world music, kept the audience singing and dancing throughout the entire evening.

The night began with hits from their successful first album, "Remember Two Things." These were followed by a variety of hits from their first two studio albums, "Under The Table and Dreaming" and "Crash," along with numerous songs from their third studio release, "Before These Crowded Streets."

Some of the highlights were old favorites such as, "Tripping

Billies" and "Two Step," as well as new hits including, "Rapunzel," "Don't Drink The Water," "Crush," and "Stay." The concert climaxed with a new look on Bob Dylan's, "All Along The Watchtower." Of course, the DMB could not leave Charlotte without an encore, and they chose a great one, "Ants Marching." The whole crowd joined in to help Dave with this last tune, which finished with violinist Boyd Tinsley's exciting solo.

As Dave Matthews stated himself, "It was a most special evening," and there is no doubt the sold-out audience would agree.

Spotlight: Sabre musicians Method N₂O

By Laura King
Staff Artist

"A lot of people ask us what our name means," said John Edwards, bassist. "The truth is, we don't really know. We just thought it sounded good." They consider themselves a hard core/rock and roll band, although they have respect for most music.

Method N2O is made up entirely of juniors here at South. Mike Mitchell is the guitarist, writer, and voice of the band. John is the bassist, and Chris Hathcock, the drummer, completes the band. Referring to Chris, John insists "...he's one of the most talented teenage drummers I've ever heard!"

The band plays at parties and hopes to have a demo tape soon. They are playing at Park Road Park on October 17th.

Method N2O is not a band based on short-lived fads, appearance or flashy style. They have a great respect for pure talent, and a love for the art. To put it simply, Mike states, "We are a band, founded upon the respect for the American gift: freedom."

Sabres' Blade artist Laura King will feature a South Meck band each issue.



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McMullen Creek Market
8326 Pineville-Matthews Rd.

Saturday 10:00-6:00



Faces in the Crowd

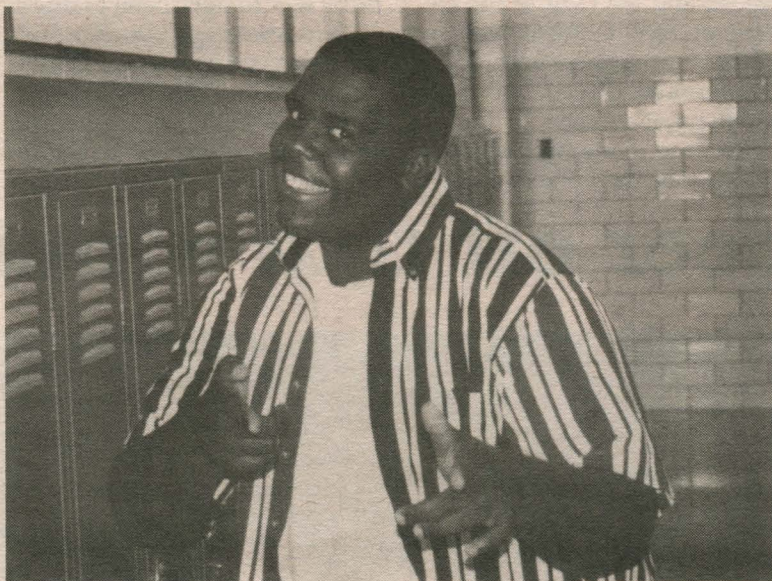
Kyle Robinson: A class clown who knows how to draw the line between learning and fun

By Nathan Morabito
Sports Co-Editor

Known as one of the friendliest and funniest guys on campus, senior Kyle Robinson excels not only in academics but in extracurricular activities as well.

Kyle is an active participant in many clubs, including NAACP, Beta Club, National Honor Society, and the Renaissance Club. He is also a dedicated member of Student Council, serving as senior class vice president this year.

Kyle is both a well-rounded student and a well-rounded individual. While remaining active in all of his activities, he is still able to maintain good



Kyle has a smile for all occasions, even for class.

grades in higher level courses, such as AP and AG classes. He is currently in the top twenty-five percent of his class.

When Kyle is not at school or participating in school-related activities, he can be found playing basketball with friends or working at The Finish Line at Carolina Place Mall, where he is employed as a sales associate.

Currently, Kyle is undecided about which college he would like to attend, but he does know that he would like to study medicine and specialize in pediatrics. His advice to students is to "work hard in school, because the harder you work, the better chance you have of reaching your full potential and achieving your goals."

Erinn Harris: Yearbook editor and exceptional student who still finds time for friends

By Megan McKnight
Centerspread Editor

Erinn Harris is a super senior Sabre. Not only is she the editor of the yearbook, captain of Varsity softball, and vice president of National Honor Society, but she also ranks in the top 10 of her class and plans to attend Wake Forest University to study English after graduating from South.

When asked about her success and achievements at South, she said, "I couldn't have done it without the help of my teachers, family, and of course my inspiring friends." Erinn considers her parents and grandparents to be her biggest influences. "They are such great people, helping



Erinn assists her yearbook staff with designing a layout.

others in every aspect of life," she said.

Erinn is not all work and no play though. Despite holding a job at Gap in South Park on the weekends, she still manages to find time to hang out with her friends. Erinn is also a self-proclaimed 80's fanatic. "If I could have lived in any decade as a teenager, it would've been the 80's. I love everything about that decade: the music, the movies, and the fashion."

Erinn Harris (that's Erinn with 2 n's) embodies all the good qualities one needs to go far in life. "Since the time when I first met Erinn four years ago, I have never seen her without a smile," said Mrs. Erin Bradley. "She is a delight."

If you could flash back and live in any decade, which would you choose?

"Probably the 1940s because I've always been fascinated with the World War II era and it would have been interesting to live in that time period."

Meredith Perry, 12th

"I would live in the '60s because that was a time of change in this country and I would have liked to have been a part of it."

Amy Smith, 9th

"I would go back to the '50s so I could learn how to swing."

Andrew Zancanaro, 12th

"I would rather live in the '70s because it was a nonchalant, worry-free decade and it was when blacks were just beginning to express their rights."

Dena King, 12th

"The 60s because I'd love to have been in San Francisco at Haight-Ashbury."

Krysta Zellers, 11th

"I'd go to the '80s because everything was really outrageous and there wasn't a lot of conformity."

Katie McClure, 10th

"I would stay in the '90s because the people in this decade have more knowledge than in the past and there is also more technology."

Josiah Welch, 9th

"I would like to live in the '20s so that I could be part of the beginning of the Women's Movement and so I could be a flapper."

Ashley Taylor, 12th

"I would live in the '60s so I could be a hippie and go to Woodstock."

Justin Lackey, 11th

"I would like to live in the '50s so I could wear poodle skirts and saddle shoes."

Shannon Hurleigh, 12th

"I would live in the '30s so I could live during the period of the mob."

Mike Ingram, 11th


"I would choose the '70s because the music from that decade is great."

Laina Angelmeyer, 9th

"Probably the '80's because so much happened in that decade, like the fall of the Berlin Wall and the ending of the Soviet empire."

Austin Owings, 10th

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Name in
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NationsBank Corporate Center
Suite 5400
100 N. Tryon Street
Charlotte NC, 28210

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American fans show little interest in soccer

Welcome to my column. Every month from now until the end of the year you can read my take on sports. This month's subject is why Americans don't show any interest in soccer. As you have heard, soccer, not basketball, football, or baseball, is by far the most popular sport in the world. In many countries in South America and Europe it ranks just below a national religion. South Africa actually has a political party named after the sport; however, in the United States we have failed to take the remotest interest in the game.

If you remember, four years ago our country was filled with fans from all over the world who came to cheer for their nation in the World Cup, soccer's

J. T. Crook

Sports Commentary

most prestigious tournament. This past summer there was another World Cup, but this time television ratings were so low that the ABC network considered dropping coverage.

Now, my point is that Americans cannot play soccer because we just don't care enough. In the past World Cup our nation, the most powerful in the world, produced a team whose performance was so pathetic that we ended up finishing last in a thirty-two team field. Many of you have never heard of our embarrassment and even now do not care.

Some recent polls indicate that Americans are beginning to take the game more seriously. Soccer is now the number one youth sport in the nation. More young kids in the United States are choosing to kick a soccer ball than to hit a baseball; however, many of these children are also giving up the game after two or three years of participation.

Sadly, my prediction for the future of soccer in America is not good. I believe that the game will never be a major sport in American life. Our national team will go on forever as a second-rate team unless there is interest in the United States concerning their performance.

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Eligibility rules force volleyball forfeits

Discovery of ineligible team member shatters playoff hopes

By J. T. Crook and
Nathan Morabito
Sports Co-Editors

Last week, the Lady Sabres were shocked to learn that their first twelve games of the season would have to be forfeited. A member of the team was declared ineligible on September 22, for exceeding the maximum number of absences of thirteen last semester.

Eligibility is checked during the summer when teams first begin practicing. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director and the head coach to keep up with the attendance record and the GPA of the student athletes. Unfortunately, an athlete's attendance record was overlooked due to her high grade point average.

Because of medical illness, a member of the volleyball team

was forced to miss eighteen days of school during the spring semester. Since all of these absences were excused and unavoidable, a hardship waiver could have been filed and eligibility would have been granted.

Two weeks ago, Dr. Knox requested participation lists from Athletic Director Herb Davis. These lists included grades and attendance records from the previous semester. When the lists

were reviewed, the number of absences of a player on the volleyball team exceeded the allowed limit.

When the mistake was discovered, the school had to pay a \$150 fine to the state's athletic association. The team also had to forfeit every game that they had won up to this point in the season. Right now, all possible hopes of reaching the playoffs have been shattered.

Sabre soccer off to a winning start

By Laura King
Staff Reporter

Sabre soccer is off to an impressive start this season and exhibits a lot of potential. Through the first seven games they post a record of six wins, no losses and one tie, and have outscored their opponents by a margin of 29 to 6. They proved themselves early by defeating Harding, South Iredell and Northwest Cabarrus in the Olympic Shootout Tournament and taking home first place. Those three teams are all ranked in the 3A state poll.

Rather than look to a few players to carry the team, South has been impressive on all ends. Greg Arent and Chris Wyer lead the team in scoring with nine goals and eight goals, respectively. Charlie Everett, Mike Benfield, Zach DeLeo and Cliff Venable have been outstanding on defense, and Bryson Hopkins and Leif Ellsworth have combined for two shutouts. The Sabres are led by senior captains Josh Fisher and Cliff Venable.

While the Sabres are enjoying early success, Coach Lynch is looking ahead to the conference season. "We are very focused this year on our goal to make the



Zach DeLeo shields off an opponent while looking for an open teammate.

playoffs. Currently, we are playing well and I hope we can carry this momentum into the confer-

ence season. Myers Park (currently ranked #1 in the 4A state poll), East Meck and Providence

will be our greatest challenges," he said.

Cross Country sets sight on Conference

By Chris O'Connor
Staff Reporter

The Sabre cross country team's season started off with tragedy, but is looking to end in triumph. The team is struggling to overcome the loss of Ben Robinette, one of their top runners who was tragically killed in an accident during practice. Ben was the fifth man on the varsity team, and had the potential to become one of the best runners in the state.

The Sabres are focusing on winning the Southwestern 4A Conference meet. Coach Zelk, in his first year at South, will be rebuilding much of the program this year. The 1998 team is strong, with six of the top seven runners returning. They are led by captains Chris Gordon, Jon Sauzier, and Chris O'Connor.

In their season opener, the Sabres took second place, losing to Providence, but defeating both Butler and Vance. They recorded their first win of the season in an important meet against Myers Park and Vance. Alexi Neill had a strong race, finish-



Brendan McHugh and Chris Gordon take an early lead.

ing second, followed by John Lakas, Brendan McHugh, and Chris Gordon in seventh place.

The Lady Sabres have grown stronger as well, with a solid varsity team that consists of many veteran runners. In command of the team this year are senior captains Kate Meier,

Jenny Martelle, and Melody Milroy.

Next up for the Sabres is the Appalachian Invitational October 17 followed by the Southwestern 4A Conference Championship October 28 and the Regional Championship October 31.

Upcoming Sabre Sporting Events

Varsity Football

Oct. 9 @ Providence
Oct. 16 INDEPENDENCE
Oct. 23 @ East Meck
Oct. 30 BUTLER
Nov. 6 MYERS PARK

Varsity Soccer

Oct. 8 @ Providence
Oct. 13 @ West Charlotte
Oct. 15 INDEPENDENCE
Oct. 20 GARINGER
Oct. 22 @ East Meck
Oct. 27 @ Myers Park
Oct. 29 BUTLER

Cross Country

Oct. 10 Furman Invite
Oct. 14 Pre-Conference @ McAlpine
Oct. 17 ASU Invite
Oct. 22 SW4A Champ. @ McAlpine
Oct. 28 Regionals "B" @ McAlpine
Oct. 31 Mid-West 4A Regionals @ McAlpine

Player transfers cause controversy for football team

Enforcement of new rules leads to loss of two key players

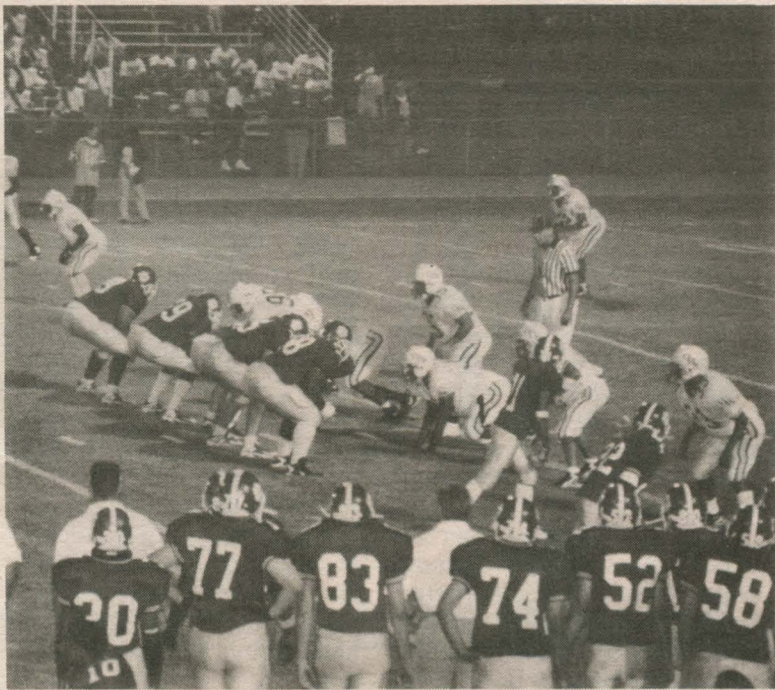
By J.T. Crook
Sports Co-Editor

This season of Sabre football will not be remembered by the way the team played, but for the controversy involving player transfers.

The team lives under the label of being "the school C.J. did not want to play for." C.J. Leak, quarterback for Independence High School, is the subject of this dispute. C.J. Leak was formerly enrolled at South Meck because he lived in South's district. He transferred last year to Independence in order to play for the Patriots.

Leak's father, for the previous year, had rented an apartment in the Independence school district to claim residency. This allowed Leak to play for a football team which is a regular power in the conference. The school system found out about the arrangement and said that Leak would have to return to South. His family finally moved into the district to avoid controversy.

While the schools were



The Sabres face an uncertain season after the loss of two key players.

cracking down on sports transfers, they learned that the Sabres' leading rusher, Jon Brewer, was living in the West Mecklenburg district. Brewer was forced to leave South to attend West. Apparently, Jon had moved into the West Meck district last November and was re-

ported to the school system as living out of district. Dr. Knox made the final decision to send Brewer to West Meck. "Jon Brewer was living out of our attendance district. According to our policy, he could not remain (at South). Therefore, if he wanted to play sports he

needed to return to his base school which was West Meck." Knox said "losing him was certainly a loss to our program, but we also have to operate by the policy and regulations." The decision to send Brewer to West Mecklenburg, a star tailback last year, was an effort to follow the rules established by the Charlotte school system.

The Sabres are trying to recover from their distracting pre-season and are looking forward to the rest of the season. However, the team got off to a poor start by losing their first three games including an embarrassing 28 - 2 loss to Olympic at home. The Sabres are still optimistic. When asked about the outlook for the rest of the year, senior linebacker Scott Wilson said, "Our first three games were tough losses but the rest of them are conference games and that is when they really count." With upcoming games against rivals Providence and Myers Park and the Homecoming game on October 30th against Butler, the Sabres still have a very good chance to turn their season around.

Potential wild-card teams have been overshadowed

What do the Boston Red Sox, New York Mets, Chicago Cubs, and San Francisco Giants have in common? Honestly, from what I have seen lately in the media, I would be surprised if someone could tell me. If you have not heard, these teams were all in a very exciting fight for a wild-card spot in their respective leagues.

Probably the reason you had heard little about it is that all of these teams were overshadowed by the Yankees, Braves, Padres, and the Roger Maris home run chase. Sure, the Yankees were going for the best record of all time, and the Braves and Padres were dominating their divisions, but this did not give them an automatic World Series berth.

The wild-card race was originally instituted for years when most of the teams already had sewn up their division and the games became less exciting. Any other year the focus would be on the wild-card race, but this year it has been on Mark

Ohio State edges out Florida State in preseason poll

Championship series gives everyone a shot

By Nathan Morabito
Sports Co-Editor

By the narrow margin of five points, the Ohio State Buckeyes edged out the Florida State Seminoles for the number one spot in the 1998 Associated Press college football preseason top 25. The Buckeyes are searching for their first title in 30 years, but this season the number one ranking will be tougher to achieve since any team has a title shot. Only once in its almost 50 year history has the AP top team voting been closer.

Luckily, due to new changes with the season ending bowl games, any contender has a chance to win the number one spot in college football. This system was put into place to

avoid the problem of a split national title. The new Bowl Championship Series uses a complex point-system containing polls, computer rankings, strength-of-schedule, and final won-loss record.

In the new system, the AP and USA Today/ESPN coaches polls will develop an average ranking which will count as only twenty-five percent of the final decision for the number one ranking. The remaining seventy-five percent of the final rankings will consist of: a computer rating system which awards points for position in rankings, strength-of-schedule, awarding more points to the teams who have the toughest schedules, and a win-loss record where teams are punished with a point per loss.

This Championship Bowl Series will contain eight teams, six conference champions and two at-large bids. These teams will play in either the Rose, Orange, Fiesta, or Sugar Bowls, with the championship between the number one and number two teams rotating to a different bowl every year. For example, this year's championship will take place at the Fiesta Bowl, with next year's moving to a different site. The Bowl Championship Series has been developed to allow the two best teams to play for the number one ranking, regardless of the polls.

Although most coaches hope for playoffs in the near future, most agree that this new system is better than that of previous years.

Associated Press Top 25

1.	Ohio St.	3-0
2.	Nebraska	4-0
3.	Tennessee	3-0
4.	UCLA	2-0
5.	Kansas St.	4-0
6.	LSU	3-0
7.	Penn St.	3-0
8.	Florida	3-1
9.	Florida St.	3-1
10.	Virginia	4-0
11.	Syracuse	2-1
12.	Georgia	3-0
13.	Wisconsin	4-0
14.	Arizona	4-0
15.	Colorado	4-0
16.	West Virginia	2-1
17.	Oregon	4-0
18.	Texas A&M	3-1
19.	Virginia Tech	4-0
20.	Washington	2-1
21.	Southern Cal	3-1
22.	Arkansas	3-0
23.	Missouri	2-1
tie.	Notre Dame	2-1
25.	Michigan	2-2

Nathan Morabito

Sports Commentary

McGwire, Sammy Sosa, and Ken Griffey Jr., who are on predominantly losing teams. Now the focus switches from the playoffs to home runs. The players in the record chase have repeatedly announced that they would rather be on winning teams than gain the home run title. I wonder then, why we still focus on it.

The Cubs for example, were receiving attention not because they were in the wild-card hunt, but instead because Sammy Sosa was in the home run chase. The remainder of the teams, including the Red Sox, Mets, and Giants, received little or no attention. Maybe if Mo Vaughn or Mike Piazza were in this home run race, we would understand how talented these other teams truly are.

Take a look at last year's World Series champion Florida Marlins. They were able to make the playoffs and win the World Series by capturing the wild-card. With clubs this year, it is possible that a wild-card team may again prevail over the obvious favorites.

My point is that the playoffs, not meaningless records, are the main goal of all 30 franchises. I ask the fans not only to keep your eye on the top teams such as the Braves and Yankees, but also on the underdog Mets, Cubs, Giants, and Red Sox. I agree, seeing McGwire or Sosa hit 70 or more home runs would be great, but it should not be the only focus of the season.

Editor's note: At the time this article was written, the home run record had not yet been broken.



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Senior Mysteries



By Megan McKnight
Centerspread Editor

You might know this pint-sized senior woman through her involvement in many South Meck clubs, such as Vice President of French Honor Society, Treasurer of Octagon, and Secretary of PAWS. When this carless Sabre isn't running from meeting to meeting you'll often find her mooching rides off of her friends or working at the Gap. Her future college choices include UNC-G and the University of Maryland. If you are still in the dark, this senior mystery is known for her outgoing, friendly personality and trendy clothes. Still confused? Check page 5 for the answer.



By Chris O'Connor
Staff Reporter

This senior mystery is literally the big man on campus. At 6'4", he's not easy to miss. He plays offensive tackle for the varsity football team, and has achieved such honors as All-Conference and regional champion in wrestling. This Sabre also finished third in the regional track meet in the discus event. However, his talents are not just limited to sports. He also sings in both the Gospel Choir and the Concert Choir. Outside of school, this senior mystery enjoys playing basketball, making jokes, and just hanging out. If you still don't know who this senior is, turn back to page 5.

Eating disorders: A rising problem among teenage women

By Laura King
Staff Reporter

"Characterized by a severe revulsion toward eating that results in extreme thinness and sometimes in death from self-inflicted starvation."

That's how the dictionary describes anorexia nervosa, the most well-known and most serious of all eating disorders. However, this condition is unfortunately much more complex, and because of our poor understanding of it's treatment is extremely difficult.

Anorexia, and most other eating disorders often affect young women characterized as perfectionists or "Type A" personalities, or with unusually tough or demanding parents or coaches. In most cases the victim is a girl between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, although occasionally a male or an older woman will become affected.

The countless victims of anorexia, once inflicted with the illness, fall into a pattern that rapidly changes the body and,

in extreme cases, can diminish a person's body weight by fifty percent. The illness begins with dieting to lose weight. It then becomes a refusal to take in food as part of a relentless pursuit of the ideal of thinness. After a few weeks, lack of nourishment appears in the victim, and illness is brought on by chemical imbalances. Physical development, especially in adolescents, may slow, and various glands stop working properly. The condition is usually hard to spot at first because anorexics commonly claim to be normal and become extremely defensive if questioned about their health. About ten to fifteen percent of all victims have their lives halted—by death from starvation.

Most doctors consider anorexia and other eating disorders to be a dangerous mental illness. Because the root of the problem is usually psychological, the victim often needs the help of a psychiatrist or other trained counselor. Victims who have been affected more severely of-

ten undergo long-term psychotherapy to help them realize why they are starving themselves. Eating disorders tend to sneak up on the victims, and most often the affected persons don't even realize what is happening to them. Anorexia is a result of extremely low self-confidence, and victims commonly sink into a state of self-denial. After telling themselves they're okay for a while, they start to believe it, even if it's not true.

If you know someone who you think might have an eating disorder, you can help. Talk to the person, and encourage her to realize the reality of her condition; if it is more serious, contact a professional or the person's parents.

The longer an eating disorder is left unnoticed, the more threatening it will become to the victim's health. If you are affected by an eating disorder, quit making excuses. Stand in front of the mirror, look yourself in the eye, and try to convince yourself there's nothing wrong. Can you?

Common signs of eating disorders:

- *more distant and hard to talk to
- *pale, washed-out skin
- *rapid, visible weight loss
- *makes excuses for not eating
- *constant lack of energy
- *teeth enamel fading
- *irritability
- *dry, brittle hair

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THE SABRES' BLADE

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South Meck designated exemplary school

Faculty and staff delighted with state's recognition; attribute success to teamwork and dedication

By Andrew Buchert
Editor

South faculty and students have much to celebrate as the 1998-1999 school year opens next week. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction announced last Thursday that South Mecklenburg High School has been classified as an exemplary status school, having exceeded its state goals by ten percent.

The state ABC goals are based on test scores in five courses and the number of graduating students who meet college-prep standards in six courses. Schools must make a five percent gain above their goals to meet state expectations and quality for a bonus; a ten percent gain qualifies the school for exemplary status.

Principal Dr. Knox is not surprised that South performed so well. "In my three years here [at South], there has never been a question in my mind that the staff, students, and parents are exemplary," he said.

As an exemplary status school, each staff member is eligible to receive a

\$1000-\$1500 state bonus, as well as a local bonus of an unspecified amount.

At the end of the 1996-1997 school year, South was classified as a priority school for the upcoming year. To improve the school's test scores, the administration established two distinct groups to encourage cooperation among teachers. "The effective teamwork last year is unprecedented in the history of the school, and definitely played a crucial role in our success," said Dr. Knox.

Content teams, consisting of all the teachers of one specific subject, were designed both for support and to ensure that the teachers were following the state curriculum in their subject. Teachers were encouraged to cover all of the material tested by the state, and to pace their classes accordingly.

Interdisciplinary teams generally consisted of at least one teacher from every subject, and were established to promote knowledge integration across the curriculum. "There is just a tremendous amount of synergy in this type of teaming," said Pam

Espinosa, Assistant Principal of Instruction, "and when you take the teachers and the content knowledge that they have and you put them together in this type of situation, then I don't think there's going to be any stopping them."

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System goals are not necessarily based on the state goals. In the past, teachers have been teaching to the district performance standards rather than the state curriculum. "We weren't as conscious of those [the state goals] in past years," said Virginia Campbell, English Department chair. "This means teaching the material upon which we are being tested," she said.

Although there was a lot of pressure on both the administration and the teachers, the faculty was determined to exceed the state goals. South Meck had never even partially met the district benchmark goals when they were still in existence, but "the teachers here know they're good and that their students are capable of performing well," said Mrs. Espinosa. "The statewide accountability plan and the threat

of possibly being taken over by the state provided a lot of determination to show people what we're made of," she said.

South met and exceeded its state goals in every subject area except for the tenth grade writing exam. However, this was due largely to the scores of South students enrolled in summer school. "We worked very hard in writing," said Mrs. Campbell, "but the roll-back of summer school writing scores effectively reduced the overall school writing score."

Because the state goals are based on the school's performance the previous year, South's goals for this coming academic year will reflect the school's ten percent gain over last year's goals. "I am optimistic that we will continue to see an improvement in test scores," said Mrs. Campbell.

"If we continue to focus on curriculum alignment, staff development, collaboration, and the institution of a challenging and effective curriculum, we can continue to build successes upon our success," said Dr. Knox.

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